

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: RANDAL ARTICLE ON UK-US PLAN

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE ON THE UK-US PLAN
BY JONATHAN RANDAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST
AUGUST 25:

2. U.S.-BRITISH PLAN WOULD BAR SMITH ROLE IN RHODESIA

A STILL-SECRET BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN FOR TRANSFERRING POWER
TO RHODESIA'S BLACK MAJORITY RULES OUT ANY LEADERSHIP ROLE
FOR PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES.

IT CALLS FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN THE MILITARY BALANCE, DIS-
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MANTLING RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AND BLACK NATIONALIST GUER-
RILLA FORCES AND BRINGING AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING
FORCE INTO THE COUNTRY.

THE OUTLINES OF THE PLAN, WHICH IS LIKELY TO RUN INTO
DIFFICULTIES BOTH FROM THE WHITE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AND
FROM THE GUERRILLAS, WERE LEARNED HERE TODAY FOLLOWING A

2 1/2-HOUR MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN ANDREW YOUNG, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND LT. GEN. OLESEGUN OBASANJO, HEAD OF NIGERIA'S RULING MILITARY COUNCIL. THE

NIGERIANS WOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE PLAN BY PROVIDING THE BULK OF THE TROOPS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE.

YOUNG AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN PLAN A SERIES OF MEETINGS NEXT WEEK TO TRY TO GAIN APPROVAL OF THE PLAN FROM ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT SMITH WILL AGREE TO STEP ASIDE VOLUNTARILY.

(IN SALISBURY, A RHODESIAN FOREIGN OFFICIAL CALLED THE PLAN "CYNICAL" AND "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.")

APPARENTLY THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS ARE COUNTING ON THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FIVE "FRONT-LINE" STATES, THE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES MOST INVOLVED IN TRYING TO END WHITE RULE, TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE MAJOR BLACK NATIONALIST GROUPS TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT.

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THE MAIN GUERRILLA GROUP DOING THE FIGHTING, IS EXPECTED TO OPPOSE THE PLAN BECAUSE IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE DISARMED UNDER THE PROPOSAL. IT HAD SOUGHT SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MILITARY SECURITY DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD.

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IF THE FRONT-LINE LEADERS ACCEPT THE PLAN, HOWEVER, MOST OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT CAN DO ABOUT IT, BECAUSE THE GUERRILLAS DEPEND ON THE FIVE COUNTRIES - TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA - FOR BASES, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT.

AT THE PLAN'S HEART IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY FORCE, MOST LIKELY ALONG THE LINES OF PAST UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCES. IT IS SAID TO INVOLVE THOUSANDS OF TROOPS, WITH MOST OF THE FORCES COMING FROM OIL-RICH NIGERIA, AFRICA'S MOST POPULOUS STATE AND A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE COFFERS OF THE NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS FIGHTING IN RHODESIA.

DURING A TRANSITION LEADING UP TO THE HANDOVER OF POWER BY THE END OF 1978, THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE WOULD WORK ALONGSIDE ELEMENTS OF THE SMITH GOVERNMENT'S WHITE-LED ARMED FORCES AND OF THE RIVAL BLACK NATIONALIST GUERRILLA GROUPS.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT BLACK RHODESIAN TROOPS TRAINED AND EQUIPPED IN TANZANIA ARE ALSO TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE

TRANSITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAN.

SAID TO NUMBER 5,000, THEY CONSTITUTE AN INDEPENDENT FORCE
IN TANZANIA OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S

GUERRILLAS OF JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE-THEMSELVES
SAID TO BE AT ODDS.

THE AMERICANS AND BRITISH HOPE THAT THE OUTSIDE INTER-
NATIONAL FORCE-AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE TROOPS SUPPORTED
BY TANZANIA'S PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE-WILL HELP TO INSURE
THE POLITICAL NEUTRALITY NECESSARY FOR ALL RHODESIANS TO
COMPETE FOR POWER PEACEFULLY AND FAIRLY.

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AS SUCH, THE PLAN IS DESIGNED TO GUARANTEE LAW AND ORDER
FOR THE WHITE MINORITY AND A FAIR SHAKE FOR TWO OTHER
BLACK NATIONALIST FACTIONS, HEADED BY BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA
AND THE REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE. THEY HAVE NO TROOPS BUT
ARE THOUGHT TO COMMAND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AMONG RHODESIAN
BLACKS.

THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE WOULD ALSO TRY TO BUILD A NEW ARMY
FOR THE COUNTRY. AT STAKE IS DISMANTLING NOT ONLY OF THE
BLACK NATIONALIST FORCES, BUT ALSO CRACK UNITS OF THE SMITH
GOVERNMENT'S ARMED FORCES, SUCH AS THE MIXED BLACK AND
WHITE SELOUS SCOUTS, A WIDELY FEARED COUNTER-TERRORIST COM-
MANDO UNIT.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT THERE WAS A "HIGH" LIKELIHOOD THAT
BRITAIN WOULD SERVE AS OVERALL ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE
ELECTIONS FOR WHAT THE PLAN CALLS A NEW "NON-RACIAL" GOVERN-
MENT.

CAREFULLY BALANCING ITS ADVANTAGES FOR RHODESIA'S WHITES
AND BLACKS, THE PLAN SATISFIES THE NATIONALISTS' DEMANDS
FOR ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE. BUT IT ALSO CALLS FOR AN ENLARGED
OUTSIDE INVESTMENT FUND DESIGNED TO BUILD WHITE CONFIDENCE
IN A FUTURE RHODESIAN ECONOMY.

INSTEAD OF PROMISING ONE BILLION DOLLARS TO BUY OUT THE
270,000 WHITE SETTLERS, AS FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY
KISSINGER OUTLINED LAST YEAR, THE PLAN CALLS FOR FUNDS TO
ENCOURAGE WHITES TO STAY AND TO STRENGTHEN THE RHODESIAN
ECONOMY. THE LONGER THE WHITES STAY, THE MORE THEY STAND
TO GET PAID UNDER THE PLAN.

ADIN NON-COMMUNIST INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS-AS WELL AS
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MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLUUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES-HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND.

RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, IT WAS LEARNED, WAS A DETERMINATION THAT "NO ONE HAD A LEVER."

OWEN AND YOUNG ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, THIS WEEK TO BRIEF THE FRONT-LINE LEADERS ON THE PLAN. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AFTER THEIR MEETING IN LUSAKA, THE ZAMBIAN CAPITAL.

SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER R. F. (PIK) BOTHA, WHO RECEIVED THE BROAD OUTLINE OF THE PLAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN LONDON, HAS CONFERRED TWICE SINCE THEN WITH SMITH. A MEETING IS PLANNED IN PRETORIA SATURDAY BETWEEN SMITH AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER.

YOUNG IS EXPECTED TO CONFER WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS MUGABE AND NKOMO HERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN EFFORTS TO WIN THEM OVER.

U.S. WON'T ARM REBELS IN AFRICA, YOUNG SAYS

U.S. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER SUPPLY ARMS TO BLACK NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT WASHINGTON IS NOT AFRAID OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE ON THE CONTINENT.

TALKING WITH REPORTERS AT A U.N.-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID, YOUNG SAID THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVER SUBSCRIBE TO A SITUATION "WHERE ONE GROUP IS ARMED TO KILL OFF THE OTHER."

"MY UNDERSTANDING IS THEY HAVE GOT TO LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER AND THAT IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD," HE SAID. YOUNG IS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

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YOUNG SAID COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE REGION IS OF NO IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES. CHRISTOPHER

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